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Action Item

Governmental Relations Committee

Approval of the Minutes of the February 5, 2002,
and March 8, 2002 Meetings

MINUTES

Governmental Relations Committee

Meeting of February 5, 2002

Committee members present Robert L. Moore, *Vice Chair*
Lance Izumi
Guillermo Rodriguez, Jr.
Evonne Seron Schulze
Rachel E. Shetka
Olivia K. Singh
Alan S. Arkatov, *ex officio*
Carol Chandler, *ex officio*

Other Commissioners present
William D. Campbell
Irwin S. Field
Susan Hammer
Kyo "Paul" Jhin
Odessa P. Johnson
Melinda G. Wilson

Committee members absent Howard Welinsky, *Chair*

Call to order Vice Chair Moore called the Governmental Relations Committee to order at 10:34 a.m.

Legislative and budget priorities for educational opportunities, 2002

Staff member Marge Chisholm reported on a set of legislative and budget priorities that reflect the four primary themes of the Commission's Public Agenda. She highlighted the specific areas that staff believes will have active legislation this year. She said the Commission is also being asked to re-affirm a set of procedures for action on legislative and budget issues that were developed 20 years ago. She recommended Committee approval and Commission adoption of the report for appropriate action.

After lengthy discussion regarding student fees, the anticipation of potential fee increases, and the Commission's traditional position of regarding a 10% fee increase limitation, the following language was proposed:

In the event of unforeseen State funding reductions, the Commission will reconsider this policy position.

The Commission strongly urges the Administration and the Legislature to fully fund higher education before imposing any increases on student fees.

Chair Moore made a motion to adopt the language, it was seconded and approved by the Committee unanimously.

Commissioner Schulze made a motion to accept the entire item with the amendment, it was seconded and the staff recommendation was adopted unanimously.

Ms. Chisholm stated that staff will meet with the Chair of the Governmental Relations Committee to arrange for a meeting in March for the Committee to do a first screening of the bills that have been introduced this year. She provided the Commissioners with a legislative calendar, and stated that the Governmental relations unit is in the process of finishing up work on the development of the legislative profiles and legislative handbooks for distribution to the Legislature.

Update on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Act

Staff member Linda White presented the Commission with a review of the recently reauthorized federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The following are highlights of her presentation.

- ◆ In December, Congress passed a reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Act entitled the No Child Left Behind Act.
- ◆ The new professional development program, Title II, part A “Teacher and Principal Quality Training and Recruiting Fund” essentially contains the same elements as the Eisenhower Professional Development Program.
- ◆ The Fund now explicitly allows for activities directed at recruiting teachers.
- ◆ The funding level has increased significantly with \$6.5 billion having been appropriated by Congress.
- ◆ The flow of the funds remains to be clarified.
- ◆ There is no longer a mathematics and science set-aside.

Staff member White indicated that, absent rules and regulations from the US Department of Education as to how the Commission should operate this program, staff is proceeding to interpret the Act, and develop policies and requests for proposals to begin obligating these new funds as early as July 2002. Staff is requesting that the current Eisenhower Advisory Committee work with the Commission through this period of transition and to also help craft the new program policies and priorities.

Commissioner Singh asked for the rationale for the Commission receiving fewer funds under the revised program.

Ms. White indicated that there are pressures for those dollars to flow to schools so teachers can access them directly.

Chair Moore requested the support of the Commission to utilize resources to highlight the importance of having programs whereby teachers at all levels are properly trained and have the greatest skill set as possible in helping students to learn.

Commissioner Chandler responded that the Commissioners concurred.

Adjournment

Having no further business, Vice Chair Moore adjourned the Governmental Relations Committee at 11:19 a.m.

MINUTES

Governmental Relations Committee

Meeting of March 8, 2002

Committee members present	Howard Welinsky, <i>Chair</i> Robert L. Moore, <i>Vice Chair</i> Lance Izumi Evonne Seron Schulze Rachel E. Shetka Olivia K. Singh Alan S. Arkatov, <i>ex officio</i>
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Committee members absent	Guillermo Rodriguez, Jr. Carol Chandler, <i>ex officio</i>
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Call to order	Chair Welinsky called the Governmental Relations Committee to order by teleconference at 9:00 a.m.
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Discussion of updated bill matrix	Staff member Marge Chisholm gave a background on the matrix, explaining that there were eight bills on the matrix that had become two-year bills, and would remain on the matrix this year. She also explained that there were a number of bills that had been crossed out on the matrix because they were “dead” bills that would be removed from the matrix after the next meeting.
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Ms. Chisholm then presented seven new bills that staff recommended be included on the matrix this year. These bills that are directly related to the Commission’s public agenda and its legislative and budget priorities.

Assembly Bill 1766 (Assembly Higher Education Committee) would ensure that all 22,500 Competitive Cal Grants be used each year. It would provide that any awards that were not activated, or used, would be redistributed to other eligible students rather than be returned to the General Fund. There was discussion about the funding available should all the awards be activated. It would probably require a slight increase in funding, because historically the State has never funded all 22,500 grants. Staff recommended a “support” position on the bill.

Assembly Bill 1894 (Bogh) would put into state law a policy on undergraduate student charges at the State’s public four-year institutions. It is essentially a spot bill that may be used as a vehicle for a fee policy this year and is very similar to a spot bill introduced by Assemblywoman Alquist, AB 195, last year. Staff indicated that the

Commission might be requested, through supplemental budget language, to convene a working group to discuss such a fee policy. Because of that request, and the Commission's "watch" position on the Alquist bill, staff recommended a "watch" position on the bill.

Assembly Bill 1991 (Liu) would require the Student Aid Commission to provide information to all high school students about the Cal Grant Program. It also would allow students to use their Cal Grant A awards at the community college level, which is not currently permissible. The author believes that many community college students transfer early to a four-year institution in order to be able to activate their Cal Grant A awards. After a recent conversation with the Assemblywoman, staff learned that the bill would very likely be changed, that the author's objective was to assist community college students, and that discussions are ongoing to determine the best course to take. She will probably be rewriting the bill. Staff recommended that the Commission take a "watch" position on the bill at this time.

Assembly Bill 2026 (Longville) would establish a Center for Chicano Studies at the California State University San Bernardino Campus. Staff explained the processes in place for establishing a new Center and developing a new program. The proposal for a Center generally comes about through actions by a faculty interest, campus academic senate, or a campus administration, rather than state legislation. New programs are developed through a process of assessing the need, (i.e. enrollment projections, location, and feasibility criteria). The Commission has the statutory responsibility of reviewing all new degree program proposals. Committee members and staff discussed the fact that this is fundamentally a local issue and does not warrant legislative involvement. These concerns have been discussed with the author. The Committee directed staff to use this opportunity to work with the State University system on the larger issues of the needs of campuses and enrollment demand issues. Committee members also instructed staff to clarify that the Commission's position is due to the process of instituting new centers in this fashion, not the concept of establishing a Center for Chicano Studies. Staff recommended an "oppose" position on the bill.

Assembly Bill 2494 (Pacheco) would provide that any funds appropriated to the Student Aid Commission in a given year that are not used for the Cal Grant Entitlement program and are unencumbered as of June 30 of that fiscal year be reappropriated to the Commission for the subsequent fiscal year for the Competitive Cal Grant Program. It would also require each high school to disclose the grade point average of every pupil in the school to the Student Aid Commission. Staff recommended a "support" position.

Senate Bill 1819 (Romero) would call upon the Commission to maximize the security and privacy of its database. Staff and committee members discussed the fact that the Commission's database has very rigorous security and privacy protocols in place already, and the language in the bill reinforces existing policy. For that reason, the Commission may want to support the bill. Staff discussed with the Committee that this is probably a spot bill for legislation that may have originated from the Senate Select Committee on Admissions and Outreach to Higher Education or the K-University Education Masterplan Committee. Staff reported that they would work with the author as the bill evolves. Staff recommended a "support" position pending clarification.

Senate Bill 1820 (Romero) would require the State University and the University of California to collect data on their support and retention programs and report the information to the Commission. The Commission would then be required to analyze and report on the effectiveness of the programs to the Legislature and the Governor. There was discussion on the lack of definition of terms in the bill and the need for funding if the Commission is expected to issue an additional report. Staff recommended a “support” position pending clarification and/or amendment to ensure appropriate funding.

There was general discussion of each item, and Chair Welinsky called for a vote of the committee on the recommended positions. The committee voted unanimously to adopt the positions recommended by staff.

Update on masterplan committee deliberations	Ms. Chisholm reported that the Masterplan working groups were making their final reports to the full committee. Staff will continue to testify on issues of particular concern to the Commission.
Update on education bond deliberations	Ms. Chisholm reported on the efforts Commission staff has been making with regard to language calling for a minimum 5% set-aside for joint use facilities and language encouraging the use of facilities by more than one educational system. The Committee discussed strategies for lobbying key members.
Adjournment	Having no further business, Chair Welinsky adjourned the Governmental Relations Committee meeting
